

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, October 30. 1707.

IN my last, good People all, I told you a Tale out of an old Manuscript, call'd the *Pentateuch*; perhaps some of our more inquisitive People may have found the Book, and tho' it is not much read, as I noted before, yet this Story will come to mind, I doubt not, and therefore I do not quote *Chapter and Page*: But I must now, as I promis'd in my last, tell you another Tale out of the same Book, and it relates to the same People, and perhaps may suit as exactly with our Times too.

When those Folks, called *Israelites*, had often abus'd the poor honest Man, that had done so much for them, and still the same Power that parted the Sea for them, assisting him, he had always supply'd their Wants, and pacify'd them; at last they began to grow a little better satisfy'd, and to trust

GOD's Goodness to them; and being brought to a great Hill in the middle of the Deserts of *Arabia*, call'd Mount *Sinai*, there GOD seem'd resolv'd to be in a more extraordinary Manner known to them, and there he appointed to give them Laws for their Behaviour, their Worship, and Government in the World.

It was a very awful Appearance, as you may read at large in the Author aforesaid; The Mount burning with Fire, the Voices, the Thunderings, the Earthquake, and the Terror was such, that 'tis said, all the People trembled, and expected to be destroy'd; and in this Terror they come to *Moses*, and say to him to this Purpose, *Sir, speak thou unto us, and we will bear; but let not GOD speak unto us, lest we die.* And without doubt, the Sight was so terrible, that it made great Im-

Impression upon the Minds of the People; and they could not but see the Reality of the Being, as well as Power and Greatness of the GOD, whom they worshipped, and who had by a thousand Miracles and terrible Wonders convinc'd them of his being the Great Lord, Maker, and Preserver of all Things.

Well, and how long now do you think this Impression lasted upon their Minds? For that is the End of my Tale. Truly much about as long as the like Conviction of the late Revolution, *to compare great things with small*, lasted upon our Minds. Was it possible! Would any Body be able to believe that in less than six Weeks Time, nay before they stirr'd from the Place, nay while the very Smoke continu'd upon the Top of the Mountain, and while *Moses* was receiving Orders there from GOD himself for them, in the very Face of this Fire that frighted them, they should forget all this! but so it was, they forgot all their Promises, set up a senseless, ridiculous Idol, a foolish Calf, and of their own Making too, and fall a dancing and circling about it for a GOD; and all this in less than six Weeks Time—

Was ever such a preposterous Piece of sordid Dulness and Stupidity in the World? Was ever such a Demonstration of the prodigious Stupidity and Sottishness of Human Nature?

And who in our Days does this sordid, brutish, unthinking Spirit of this ungrateful People reprove? —Does it not touch you Gentlemen of the Clergy, who oppress'd by King *James* and his Party, were turn'd out of your Colleges, your Places, and would soon have been out of your Churches? You Gentlemen of the Army, who had your Commissions taken away, to make Room for *Irish* Papists, and would soon have been all reduc'd under the Dominion of such, You Gentlemen Freeholders, whose Possessions and Estates begun to be at the Mercy of Arbitrary Power, for all which Reasons, touch'd with a Sence of your Danger, and convinc'd you were bought and sold for Slavery, and Hereditary Bondage, you took up Arms, and call'd in Help to rescue your selves and your Posterity out of this certain Destruction, and very handsomely and bravely brought it to pass.

Is it possible! Will Ages to come believe it, when 'tis told them! That some of these very Men are the hottest *High-Flyers*, the rankest *Jacobites*, the strictest Passive-Obedience Men now in the Nation; and that in far than less six Weeks Time, nay almost in six Days, they look'd back from the Plough to which they had set their Hands; is it possible, these Men should forget the Wonders of the Revolution, and the Time when terrified with the Bondage and Slavery, which they saw before them, they would have given one half of their Estates to have secur'd the other! Is it possible, they can now wish for what they then pull'd down, and can think to be safe now under that, which then justly convinc'd them, would be their Destruction!

Well, wonder no more, but read the *Pentateuch*; The *Israelites* forgot greater things than these—And next to them, these forget the greatest Good, that ever ungrateful Men receiv'd—

And what are the Men that do thus? In short, Gentlemen, these are the Men this Nation is now embarrass'd with; these are the Men we have, for these many Years past, been struggling with, and must have one Parliamentary Pull more with; 'Tis not the *Jacobites*, I mean the profess'd *Jacobites*, the *Non Jurant Jacobites*, They, honest Men, are fairer Enemies, they tell us plainly what they pretend to, they own their Principles, and show their Faces; They are not the Men, but 'tis the *Jurant Jacobites*, the perjur'd *Jacobites*, I might have said, for such eventually is every *High-Flying* Church-man, these are the Men that seek the Ruin of that very Government they are sworn to.

And now Gentlemen of the House of *Commons*, who are drawing together in the first great Assembly of this Island, accept a brief Hint or two, of what you are to expect in this ensuing Parliament. It has been thought the Party was expiring, and that their abdicated Cause had been smother'd in the Ruins of the Occasional Bill; that the Tackling Affair had been one of their last Struggles before Death, when Nature upon expiring should put forth her utmost Strength; but the Monster has yet Breath in it, and having recover'd it self a little by

by time, you will see it give another Push, or perhaps two, before it gives up the Ghost.

They had been boldly flying in the Face of their Sovereign, and were come to that Height of Insolence, as to affront Her Majesty to her Face: How many Presbyterians and Deserters of the Church have they already call'd her, and what a Clamour had we about the Danger of the Church; All the moderate Clergy were filed Traytors to their Mother, and Vipers wounding the Hand that nourish'd them? 'Tis needless to rumage into the Filth of their Behaviour, and in what Manner they treated the QUEEN, the Government, the most faithful of the Nobility, and in short every honest Man that dared but to appear in Defence of Moderation. How their Pulpits, and their Pamphlets were fill'd with Reproaches, on all that concern'd themselves in the Nation's Peace, it would be tedious and unpleasant, I say, to look back on these things: But you must expect now a different Mannagement of the same Men, and assure your self, it shall be with the same Design, and if they succeed in it, you may expect to find it so; but I hope, they shall meet with Disappointments they do not expect, and the Plots, they have laid for our dividing, shall like all the rest of their Atchievements, be as a Mine blown up before its Time.

You will expect therefore, Gentlemen, this Session, the last Struggle of Hell and High-Flyers, the utmost they can think, do, speak, or procure; this Party Devil is come down, and hath great Rage, because he knows his Time is but short; he comes fraught with a long Variety of the Infernal Instruments of Disorder, and has many a Regiment to draw up for this Attack, and it will not be very easie to find out all the turning Meanders, and deep-lay'd Labyrinths of his mysterious Design.

But to give you his general Character, he is in short a Devil of Dissention, a dividing, subdividing Monster, and his chief Aim is to throw us into that fatal Convulsion of a State, call'd *Party-Feud*; and in this particular Pursuit, give me leave to endeavour the drawing you a Scheme of his black Design; and tho' I am a great Way off,

and not at all in the Plot, yet if you find it not true, call me a false Prophet ever hereafter.

1. You'll find it their Business to nourish Parties on all sides, and this by spreading Rumors, and raising Suggestions of the Prospects of each Party, even before there is the least Appearance of such Parties, as they mention; for Apprehension of Danger often brings People into real Dangers, and discourting of Parties, as if in being, to them who know nothing of 'em, is one of the most effectual Methods to form them, that can be, and has too often been practised in this Nation with lamentable Success.

2. Expect, Gentlemen, to have Emissaries daily at Work, in order to form the whole Body into Parties; and to bring those Parties, into Terms as remote and opposite to one another as possible, in order to make a Conjunction of Interests impracticable.

3. Expect, Gentlemen, this secret Infernal Society shall with the utmost Subtily and Artifice play one Party against another, in order, if possible, to embroil honest Men together, and make the best Friends of the Government assist to the Destruction of one another.

If you think, I have no Aim in these Heads, or am at a Loss for either the Projects or the Persons, you will wrong your Judgments, and appear mistaken in me, Gentlemen, and Time may come, I may explain my self by marking out both.

In Pursuit of these three Heads, you are to expect, Gentlemen, a thousand Clamours at the Management of Affairs, and Clubs of Men form'd to raise them, where not one in ten will appear to make it good; for it has been an old Practice, tho' none of the most justifiable, to blast the Honour and Character of a Man in some Office, which somebody else has a Mind to; and this unhinges him is his Place as a Criminal, and then the Charge needs no farther Prosecution: Thus Somebody accus'd Somebody of great Frauds, &c. till he got into his Place, and then the Charge fell, the Fish was caught then, the Complaint was popular, the poor Nation cheated and abus'd, and Money embezzel'd, and the like— But when the
Place

Place was obtain'd, HOW little Care was taken to prosecute for the Nation.

In this Case, I think, a late Parliament laid a very good Precedent in the Case of Petitions in Elections, *Viz.* That if upon Hearing, the Petition should appear frivolous and vexatious, the Petitioner should pay the Charges of the Person petitioned against, and be farther punish'd at the Pleasure of the House.

GOD forbid, but the Misbehaviour of all Men in publick Offices in the Government should receive its due Censure in your House, Offenders be brought to Justice, and no Man is too big for your Cognizance.

GOD forbid, Gentlemen, that the Mismanagements of all Sorts, in any of the Persons employ'd by Her Majesty, duly enquir'd into, and fairly prov'd, should pass unpunish'd; if our Generals abroad, or Statesmen at home, have broke the Laws, betray'd their Trust, embezzel'd, or misapplied, *Amen*, Let them account to them, to whom they ought to account, and let them fall a Sacrifice to their own Folly and Knavery.

But if the House will but be pleas'd to determine something suitable to be awarded to a false Accuser, to him that blasts with the Breath, but comes not near enough to bite with his Teeth; if your Honours will impeach every Criminal, and prosecute every Impeachment, and severely punish every frivolous, vexatious Complainer; this would dash the Hopes of a strong Party, that are now contriving Mischief against their Neighbours; this would exalt Parliamentary Justice, and make all your Work easie; it would clear up the Place from the Poisons of Envy and Malice, which infect the Air round about you; it would make you be a true Source of Justice; no honest Man would be afraid of you, nor no Knave would shelter himself under your Shadow.

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